

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-05 IO-10 NEA-09 DPW-01 SR-02 ORM-01

/106 W

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R 261700Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4185

INFO USDEL PARIS

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY TEHERAN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY MANILA

UNCLAS SAIGON 3567

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJ: PRESIDENT THIEU ADDRESSES NATION ON WAR SITUATION

1. PRESIDENT THIEU READ THE FOLLOWING TV ADDRESS AT 1200 GMT
26 MARCH:

2. (TEXT) DEAR COMPATRIOTS: AS I HAVE PROMISED, TODAY I WISH TO
CONTINUE PRESENTING TO YOU THE NATIONAL SITUATION.

3. ON 20 MARCH, I BRIEFLY ELABORATED ON THE GENERAL SITUATION AND
POINTED OUT THAT THIS TIME THE NORTH VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS HAVE
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INTRODUCED NEARLY ALL OF THEIR FORCES INTO THE SOUTH IN ORDER TO

ATTACK US, WITH THE INTENTION TO TAKE OVER ALL OF THE SOUTH. THE FIGHTING HAS NOW ENTERED ITS THIRD WEEK. WITH A LARGE TROOP STRENGTH AND ABUNDANT WARMATERIEL, THE COMMUNISTS HAVE NOW OVERRUN QUANG DUC AND PHU BON PROVINCES IN MR. II. IN MR I, THE COMMUNISTS HAVE NOW OVERRUN QUANG TIN AND QUANG NGAI PROVINCES. MEANWHILE, THE COMMUNISTS HAVE SERIOUSLY THREATENED HUE, VIOLENTLY ATTACKED THE SOUTHERN PART OF THUA THIEN PROVINCE, SEVERED NATIONAL HIGHWAY 1 AND ISOLATED HUE AND DANANG.

4. IN ORDER TO KEEP OUR LARGE UNITS FROM BEING ENCIRCLED AND GRADUALLY ANNIHILATED BY THE ENEMY'S TROOP STRENGTH, WHICH IS MANY TIMES LARGER THAN OUR OWN--AT A TIME WHEN WE HAVE NOT HAD SUFFICIENT SUPPORT FACILITIES ON A BATTLEFIELD UNFAVORABLE TO US AND IN THE DIFFICULT GENERAL SETTING OF THAT ENTIRE REGION--THE FIELD COMMANDER HAS BEEN COMPELLED TO WITHDRAW TO AND INSURE THE LIFE-OR DEATH DEFENSE OF DANANG AND QUANG NAM.

5. IN THE FACE OF THE PRESENT SITUATION, YOU COMPATRIOTS ARE FULLY AWARE THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS HAVE PAID NO HEED TO IMPLEMENTING THE PARIS AGREEMENT, BUT RATHER, HAVE DEFINITELY RESORTED TO FORCE TO TAKE OVER OUR SOUTH. THEREFORE, WE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO FIGHT TO THE END WITH THE FACILITIES THAT WE HAVE AND WILL HAVE. THIS IS A FOREMOST TASK.

6. I HAVE ISSUED THE STRICT ORDER THAT ALL MILITARY LEVELS EVERYWHERE, WITH CONCENTRATED FACILITIES AND WITH THE NARROWING SCOPE OF DEFENSE, EXERT UTMOST EFFORTS TO CHECK THE ENEMY TROOPS' ADVANCE; ANNIHILATE THEM MOST EXTENSIVELY; INSURE LIFE-OR-DEATH DEFENSE OF THE REMAINING PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES; AND DEVOTE ALL FACILITIES TO LAUNCHING RESOLUTE COUNTERATTACKS.

7. I HAVE TOLD THE BROTHER COMBATANTS THAT THE WAR HAS ENTERED A DECISIVE STAGE AND THAT THEY ARE FIGHTING A DECISIVE BATTLE IN HISTORY. I HAVE TOLD THEM THAT THEY SHOULD BE AT EASE AND FIGHT PERSEVERINGLY WITH THE DETERMINATION TO FIGHT AND WIN, BECAUSE THEY ENJOY THE CONFIDENCE AND LOVE OF ALL THE COMPATRIOTS AND THE MAXIMUM SUPPORT OF OUR LARGE AND POWERFUL REARBASE.

8. BECAUSE OF THE PRESENT EMERGENCY MILITARY SITUATION, WE ARE CONFRONTING MANY URGENT NEEDS IN THE FOLLOWING FOUR CRUCIAL DOMAINS:
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(1) THE REARBASE AND THE FRONTLINE MUST FIRMLY CONSOLIDATE THE REMAINING TERRITORY. (2) RELIEF MUST BE PROVIDED TO THE COMPATRIOT REFUGEES, WHO MUST BE RAPIDLY RESETTLED. (3) THE REARBASE ECONOMY MUST BE STABILIZED AND PRODUCTION MUST BE BOOSTED TO SUPPORT OUR PROTRACTED FIGHT. (4) THE ANTICOMMUNIST, NATIONALIST SPIRIT OF ALL THE COMPATRIOTS MUST BE BROUGHT INTO FULL PLAY, SO AS TO RESOLUTELY COUNTERATTACK AND DEFEAT THE COMMUNIST AGGRESSORS.

9. THESE URGENT NEEDS MUST BE EXPEDITIOUSLY AND EFFECTIVELY MET. FOR THIS REASON, I HAVE DIRECTED PRIME MINISTER TRAN THIEN KHIEM TO RESHUFFLE THE GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NEW SITUATION AND TASKS, AND TO INVITE ANTICOMMUNIST NATIONALISTS, WHO ARE QUALIFIED AND WILLING TO DEDICATE THEMSELVES TO SERVING THE COUNTRY, TO PARTICIPATE IN A FIGHTING GOVERNMENT AND TO DEVOTE JOINT EFFORTS TO ENABLING THE NATION TO OVERCOME THE PRESENT TRIAL.

10. TO THWART ALL OF THE DISTORTING AND POISONOUS ARGUMENTS THAT MIGHT BE ADVANCED BY A NUMBER OF TROUBLE-MAKERS, LET ME AFFIRM THAT THE FIGHTING GOVERNMENT I HAVE SPOKEN OF MUST ACTUALLY BE A FIGHTING GOVERNMENT IN ALL RESPECTS, FROM ITS ACTION PROGRAM TO THE ACTIONS OF THE ENTIRE GOVERNMENT AND FROM THE COMMON MORALE, CAPABILITIES AND WORKING METHODS OF ALL MEMBERS TO THE MORALE, ABILITIES AND WORKING METHODS OF EACH AND EVERY MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT, IN ORDER TO FIGHT THE COMMUNIST FOR NATIONAL SALVATION IN THE PRESENT SITUATION AND, THEREBY, DEFEAT THE COMMUNIST AGGRESSORS AND FORCE THEM TO SERIOUSLY JOIN US IN ACHIEVING PEACE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

11. THIS WILL NOT BE A GOVERNMENT SET UP TO SOLICIT SURRENDER TO THE COMMUNISTS, TO RECOGNIZE THE EXISTENCE OF A SECOND NATION IN THIS SOUTH, OR TO ACCEPT A SOLUTION CALLING FOR COALITION WITH THE COMMUNISTS THAT WOULD ENABLE THEM TO EASILY TAKE OVER OUR SOUTH.

12. FINALLY, IN ORDER TO COPE EFFECTIVELY WITH THE PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION AND, AS AN IMMEDIATE STEP, TO CHECK THE ENEMY'S WAVE OF TYRANNICAL AGGRESION, WEAKEN HIS FIGHTING POTENTIAL, CONSOLIDATE OUR OWN MILITARY RANKS AND, THEREBY, COUNTERATTACK AND REPEL HIS GENERAL OFFENSIVE, I AND THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HAVE TAKEN AND ARE TAKING THE NECESSARY MOVES VIS-A-VIS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, CONGRESS AND PEOPLE, SO THAT THE LATTER WILL TAKE STRONG, IMMEDIATE ACTION AND TO RAPIDLY PROVIDE A SUFFICIENT VOLUME OF NECESSARY FACILITIES

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TO OUR ARMED FORCES SO THAT THEY CAN FIGHT. I, AS WELL AS THE GOVERNMENT AND THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, ARE EAGERLY WAITING FOR THE RESULTS OF THESE MOVES.

13. FINALLY, IN THE FACE OF THE RUMORS AIMED AT SOWING CONFUSION AMONG THE COMPATRIOTS AND CHAOS IN THE REARBASE--WHICH HAVE BEEN SPREAD NOT ONLY BY THE COMMUNISTS BUT ALSO BY A NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO PROFESS TO BE NATIONALISTS, BUT WHO ARE INTENT ON UNDERMINING OUR RANKS AT A TIME WHEN OUR COUNTRY IS ENCOUNTERING DIFFICULTIES, AS THEY HAVE CONSISTENTLY DONE--LET ME REITERATE THE HEARTLEFT STATEMENTS I HAVE MADE TO THE COMPATRIOTS AND THE BROTHER AND SISTER COMBATANTS AND CADRES:

14. I WAS BORN AND HAVE GROWN UP IN THIS SOUTH. I HAVE DEDICATED MORE THAN HALF OF MY LIFETIME TO THE STRUGGLE OF ALL OF OUR ARMED

FORCES AND PEOPLE AGAINST THE TYRANNICAL COMMUNIST AGGRESSORS.
THEREFORE, IN ANY CAPACITY, I WILL CONTINUE TO LIVE OR DIE IN THIS
BELOVED NATIVE LAND AND WILL CLOSELY SIDE WITH THE COMPATRIOTS
AND BROTHER AND SISTERS IN RESOLUTELY FIGHTING UNTIL
FINAL VICTORY IS ACHIEVED.

15. I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXTEND MY REGARDS AND COMFORT TO
ALL OF THE COMPATRIOT REFUGEES. I FOLLOW THE REFUGEE RELIEF EFFORTS
DAILY AND WILL DO MY UTMOST TO ASSURE THEIR SUCCES AND TO ASSURE
THAT THE RESETTLEMENT IS COMPLETED RAPIDLY AND SATISFACTORILY.

16. I WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT YOU IN THE LOCAL AREAS
IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

17. I ALSO APPEAL TO EVERYBODY, EVERY PEOPLE'S GROUP, AND
EVERY ASSOCIATION WHICH IS NOW IN THE SAFE REAR AREA, TO SEEK BY ALL
MEANS--REGARDLESS OF THEIR FACILITIES--TO COOPERATE WITH THE
GOVERNMENT OR TO ACT INDEPENDENTLY SO AS TO EARNESTLY TAKE PART
IN THE RELIEF OF NEARLY 1 MILLION BLOOD-SEALED COMPATRIOTS WHO ARE
NOW IN DISTRESS AND LACK EVERYTHING. ALL INDIVIDUALS, ASSOCIATIONS,
OR COLLECTIVES THAT CAN ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT IN CALLING ON FRIENDLY
INDIVIDUALS, ASSOCIATIONS, OR COLLECTIVES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD TO
PROVIDE RELIEF TO OUR REFUGEE COMPATRIOTS SHOULD DO SO TO HELP THE
REFUGEES.

18. MY THANKS TO YOU, COMPATRIOTS, AND UNTIL NEXT TIME.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, COMBAT OPERATIONS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SAIGON03567
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750107-0041
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750313/aaaaalqm.tel
Line Count: 202
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolflhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2003 by leeperne>; APPROVED <02 JAN 2004 by woolflhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT THIEU ADDRESSES NATION ON WAR SITUATION
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, VS, (THIEU, NGUYEN VAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006